# PCT/USO4/25926.0311200AP20Rec'dPCT/PTO 05 JUL 2006

#### CLAIMS

### What is claimed is:

- 1. A plant comprising:
  - a first absorber fluidly coupled to a regenerator, wherein the first absorber is configured to promote absorption of hydrogen sulfide by a hydrogen sulfide-selective solvent, and wherein the regenerator is configured to promote formation of a hydrogen sulfide-rich gas from the hydrogen sulfide-selective solvent:
  - a second absorber fluidly coupled to the regenerator, wherein a portion of the hydrogen sulfide-rich gas is fed to the second absorber to thereby increase a hydrogen sulfide concentration in the hydrogen sulfide-rich gas; and wherein the first and second absorbers are configured to produce an overhead product that is enriched in carbon dioxide and substantially depleted in hydrogen sulfide.
- 2. The plant of claim 1 wherein the first and second absorbers produce a first and second hydrogen sulfide-enriched solvent, and wherein the first and second hydrogen sulfide-enriched solvents are combined.
- 3. The plant of claim 1 wherein the first and second absorbers produce a first and second hydrogen sulfide-enriched solvent, wherein the first and second hydrogen sulfide-enriched solvents are combined, and wherein the second absorber receives at least a portion of the combined hydrogen sulfide-enriched solvents.
- 4. The plant of claim 1 wherein the first absorber produces a first hydrogen sulfideenriched solvent, and wherein the second absorber receives at least a portion of the first hydrogen sulfide-enriched solvent.
- 5. The plant of claim 1 wherein another portion of the hydrogen sulfide-rich gas is fed to a Claus plant.
- 6. The plant of claim 5 further comprising a third absorber that receives a tail gas from the Claus plant, wherein the third absorber is configured to promote absorption of hydrogen sulfide by a hydrogen sulfide-selective solvent, and wherein the third

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absorber is configured to produce an overhead product that is enriched in carbon dioxide and substantially depleted in hydrogen sulfide.

- 7. The plant of claim 6 wherein the third absorber is configured to produce a third hydrogen sulfide-enriched solvent.
- 8. The plant of claim 7 wherein the third hydrogen sulfide-enriched solvent is fed to at least one of first and second absorbers.
- 9. A plant comprising:
  - a first absorber fluidly coupled to a regenerator, wherein the first absorber is configured to promote absorption of hydrogen sulfide by a hydrogen sulfide-selective solvent, and wherein the regenerator is configured to promote formation of a hydrogen sulfide-rich gas from the hydrogen sulfide-selective solvent:
  - a second absorber fluidly coupled to the regenerator, wherein a portion of the hydrogen sulfide-rich gas is fed to the first absorber to thereby increase a hydrogen sulfide concentration in the hydrogen sulfide-rich gas;
  - a Claus plant that receives another portion of the hydrogen sulfide-rich gas and produces a tail gas, wherein the second absorber is configured to receive the tail gas; and
  - wherein the first and second absorbers are configured to produce an overhead product that is enriched in carbon dioxide and substantially depleted in hydrogen sulfide.
- 10. The plant of claim 9 wherein the second absorber is configured to produce a hydrogen sulfide-enriched solvent, and wherein at least a portion of the hydrogen sulfide-enriched solvent is fed to the first absorber.
- 11. A method of increasing the concentration of hydrogen sulfide in a gas stream comprising:
  - separating an acid gas stream in a first absorber to form a first carbon dioxide-rich gas and a first hydrogen sulfide-enriched solvent using a hydrogen sulfide-selective solvent;

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separating a first portion of a hydrogen sulfide-rich product gas in a second absorber to form a second carbon dioxide-rich gas and a second hydrogen sulfide-enriched solvent;

combining the first and second hydrogen sulfide-enriched solvents;
removing hydrogen sulfide from the first and second hydrogen sulfide-enriched
solvents to thereby form the hydrogen sulfide-rich product gas; and
feeding a second portion of the hydrogen sulfide-rich product gas to a Claus plant.

- 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the step of combining the first and second hydrogen sulfide-enriched solvents comprises mixing of the first and second hydrogen sulfide-enriched solvents.
- 13. The method of claim 11 wherein the step of combining the first and second hydrogen sulfide-enriched solvents comprises feeding at least part of the first hydrogen sulfide-enriched solvent into the second absorber.
- 14. Canceled.
- 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the Claus plant produces a tail gas, and comprising a step of feeding the tail gas to a third absorber that produces a third overhead product that is enriched in carbon dioxide and substantially depleted in hydrogen sulfide, and a third hydrogen sulfide-enriched solvent.
- 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the third hydrogen sulfide-enriched solvent is fed to the first absorber.
- 17. The method of claim 15 wherein the third hydrogen sulfide-enriched solvent is fed to the second absorber.